

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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SUBJECT: USG-GDR CULTURAL PROPOSALS

REF: (A) STATE 064976; (B) STATE 06437; (C) STATE 060562

SUMMARY: MFA'S BETTIN RECEIVED USG RESPONSE TO GDR CULTURAL PROPOSALS WITH OBVIOUS PLEASURE ASSESSING USG ATTITUDE TOWARD EXPANSION CULTURAL RELATIONS AS AUGURING POSITIVELY FOR FUTURE. HE DID, HOWEVER, REPEAT NEED FOR OFFICIAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT TO OBVIATE NEED FOR ITEM-BY-ITEM NEGOTIATION. BETTIN TOOK SPECIAL NOTE OF POINT CONCERNING LACK RECIPROCITY IN LECTURE OPPORTUNITIES IN GDR, PROMISING EXAMINE FURTHER. AGREED TO POET JAMES DICKY VISIT IN PRINCIPLE WITH DETAILS AND GDR SPONSOR TO BE WORKED OUT. BETTIN ALSO ANNOUNCED HE WILL BE IN THREE-MAN DELEGATION IN APRIL NEGOTIATING IREX AGREEMENT IN NEW YORK. END SUMMARY.

1. PAO MET WITH DR. WERNER BETTIN OF MFA CULTURAL DIVISION ON MARCH 25 AT LATTER'S REQUEST WITHOUT KNOWING AGENDA BUT, THANKS TO THREE REFTELS, PREPARED GIVE USG REACTION TO GDR PROPOSALS IN BERLIN-5166.

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BETTIN HAD ONLY ONE SUBJECT TO DISCUSS - STATUS OF US FILM RETROSPECTIVE, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH TO BE COVERED IN SEPTEL. FOLLOWING FILM DISCUSSION, BETTIN APPEARED DELIGHTED WHEN INFORMED THAT WASHINGTON REACTION GDR PROPOSALS AT HAND AND INSTRUCTED HIS COLLEAGUE, FRAU TEUTSCHBEIN, TAKE DETAILED NOTES.

2. PRESENTATION MADE, COVERING MAIN POINTS ALL THREE REFTELS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON LACK OF RECIPROCITY IN MATTER OF EXCHANGE SCHOLAR OPPORTUNITIES DELIVER LECTURES IN GDR, WHICH BETTIN PROFESSED TO BE UNAWARE OF AND ASKED NOTETAKER FLAG FOR HIS FUTURE ATTENTION AND DISCUSSION IN MFA. TWO OTHER MORE EMPHASIZED ITEMS INCLUDED APPROVAL SEND FILMS TO LOS ANGELES CHILDRENS FESTIVAL, ABOUT WHICH BETTIN (AND TEUTSCHBEIN, WHO MAY BE WEIGHTIER THAN MERE NOTETAKER) EXPRESSED VOCIFEROUS PLEASURE, AND PROPOSAL OF JAMES DICKY FOR LITERARY SEMINAR.

3. SUMMARY OF REFTEL C WITH ESSENTIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING DICKY HANDED TO BETTIN WHO ASKED TEUTSCHBEIN INSPECT AND WHEN SHE DISPLAYED APPROVAL, BETTIN SAID PROPOSAL WOULD BE STUDIED. ASKED IF JUNE 13-15 DATES FAVORABLE, BOTH SAID YES. WHEN DICKY'S THREE PROPOSED PROGRAMS UNDERLINED FOR THEM, BOTH AGAIN REACTED POSITIVELY, TEUTSCHBEIN CHARMED BY SUGGESTION OF INFORMAL RECITAL ON 12-STRING GUITAR. PAO ASKED FOR EARLY RESPONSE TO DICKY PROGRAM, INCLUDING IDENTITY SPONSORING ORGANIZATION, WHICH BETTIN RPOMISED.

4. IN CONCLUSION, BETTIN EXPRESSED GDR'S PLEASURE AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND RESPONSE BY THE USG TOWARD THE EXPANSION OF CULTURAL RELATIONS (THEREBY REPEATING THE SAME POINT MADE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEHALF USG AT OUTSET OF PRESENTATION) AND SAID IT AUGURED WELL FOR THE FUTURE. HE REITERATED, HOWEVER, AS HE FREQUENTLY HAS, THAT THE FUTURE SHOULD INCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, "IN WHICH EVERYTHING IS MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR, ALL DETAILS WORKED OUT, AND WE NEEDN'T SIT DOWN EACH TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS LIKE TODAY."

5. COMMENT: THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT BETTIN WAS GREATLY PLEASED BY OUR RESPONSE, AND WHEN THE POINT WAS MADE THAT THE USG IN MOST CASES COULD OFFER LITTLE MORE THAN INTERMEDIARY FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE, HE SAID THE NATURE OF THE TWO POLITICAL SYSTEMS MADE THAT OBVIOUS BUT THAT THE GOOD WILL OF THE DEPARTMENT AND USIA, TO WHICH HE REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES, WAS PARAMOUNT IN EASING OR ELIMINATING PROBLEMS. A POINT WORTH NOTING EMERGED DURING THE DISCUSSION ON DICKY, WHEN BETTIN WAS URGED TO DELIVER AN EARLY RESPONSE BECAUSE OF ARRANGMENTS BEING MADE IN

OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHICH WERE NAMED.
BETTIN IMMEDIATELY REPLIED THAT IT WAS "HIGHLY USEFUL
TO KNOW THAT DICKEY WAS TOURING OTHER SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES AND WAS ALSO GOING TO THE SOVIET UNION," AND
INSTRUCTED TEUTSCHBEIN TO BE CERTAIN TO ESPECIALLY
MENTION THIS IN HER NOTES.

THE NEWS WHICH BETTIN SEEMED ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO
CONVEY AT THE END OF THE HOUR-LONG MEETING AND WHICH HE
DID BOUNCILY WAS THAT HE HAD BEEN DESIGNATED AS ONE OF
THE THREE-MAN GDR DELEGATION TO GO TO THE U.S. IN APRIL
TO NEGOTIATE THE NEW IREX AGREEMENT, THE OTHERS BEING
DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION HEIDORN AS DELEGA-
TION HEAD, AND THE THIRD MEMBER EITHER DR. KINDZORRA
OR DIETER MATTER, BOTH FROM MINHIGHED. POLANSKY

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